(e) the time by when the work will start; and

(f) the date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tax exemption from long term capital gains under the newly created Section 54EC of the Income Tax Act will be available.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) It is proposed to issue bonds for Rs. 500 crores. However, it is too early to indicate the names of agencies, who will invest in the bonds as also the time frame for its completion.

Allocation of funds to Maharashtra

† 270. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the details of amount which has been decided to be given to Maharashtra on the basis of the news-item published in Dainik Jagran of 9th June 2000 under the caption, "Rajmarg Vikas Ke liye Vishwa Bank se 51.6 crore dollar ka rin" and the amount earmarked for each highway name-wise in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): No project in Maharashtra is covered under the proposed World Bank Loan of US$ 516 Million.

Funds for Super Highway project

271. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Super Highway six lane North-South Corridor and East-West Corridor linking National Highways;

(b) the amount of fund allotted in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether there is any further plan to extend it to transport-bottlenecked States like that of Mizoram and Manipur to the extent to Tamu, border town of India and Myanmar?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Out of the total length of about 7,300 kms of North-South and East-West Corridors, about 630 kms of National Highway are already four-laned. Four/Six laning of 20 sections of National Highways, totalling to a length of about 272 kms, is in progress. Prioritisation studies for other sections are at various stages of preparation.

(b) The expenditure on North-South & East-West Corridors was Rs. 122.45 crores during the year 1999-2000. A budget provision of Rs. 430 crores has been made for the year 2000-2001 for these corridors. It is too early to indicate allocation for the year 2001-2002.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Improvement of Jaleswar-Chandaneshwar Road

272. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) the fund sanctioned and released by the Central Government so far for construction and improvement of State Road from Jaleswar in Orissa to Chandaneswar (West Bengal border); and

(b) the details of the progress of the project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) This Ministry is responsible for development of National Highways. The State road from Jaleswar in Orissa to Chandaneswar (West Bengal border) is outside the purview of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

National Highways in Orissa

273. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total length and number of roads taken over by Government in Orissa as National Highway is much less in comparison to other neighbouring States;